

that you are mandated to pay into it. So, obviously, I ought to support Senator Vickers's amendment. On the other hand I'm inclined to believe if what I'm told, at least the Beef Board, if that is voluntary, we are probably eliminating the program. Although, as Senator Vickers points out, if they are really doing a good job those large feedlots would no doubt continue to contribute. I'm going to support the amendment based on the fact, even though I know there are some adverse effects, but if we are going to insist on mandatorily taking money away from individual producers who have no ability, generally speaking, to have input on what is going to be lobbied for or against, I guess we have to make it mandatory. So I'd support Senator Vickers's amendment on that basis. It does not make a bad bill better, it just makes a bad bill not quite as bad. It's still a bad bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson, do you want to be recognized now? May we have order in the Chamber please, so we can hear the speakers. (Gavel.) Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I rise to oppose Senator Vickers and his motion to amend LB 60. Tom and I, and the members of the Ag Committee, have of course argued this issue over and over and over again, at both hearings and in our Executive Sessions, discussing this issue. I understand what Senator Vickers is saying, and I understand what Senator Warner is telling us. But I recognize that based on our trips to Washington, based on what I see is happening in this Legislature with agriculture, that we have to look to ourselves to help ourselves. We can't continually look to the next guy to do something for us. Because of that I think that we should get these commodity programs going, letting them work in a way in which they might be able to assist agriculture and help get some economic relief to the farmers and ranchers that they are supposed to be serving. They are an instrument there. Let's make use of them. This morning we discussed a motion by Senator DeCamp to raise Initiative 300 and put it out here on the floor for discussion. I think it is something that maybe we should be doing. But I'm less concerned about who owns the land as I am about those who are out there and trying to produce an income off the land because right now I think there are an awful lot of farmers and ranchers out there that could tell you that they are not making a living off that land. We have to find mechanisms